

Roatan Marine Park

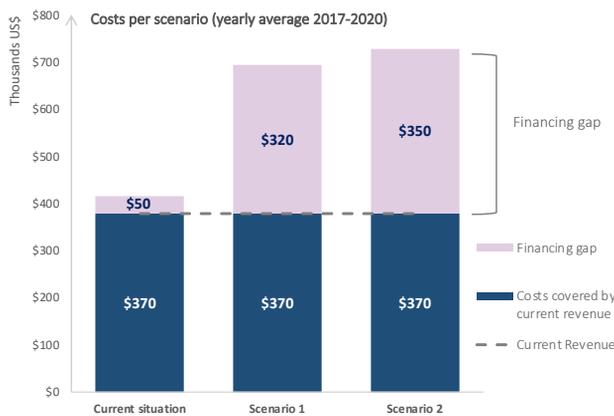
Enhancing sustainable financing strategies for protected area management

The Roatan Marine Park (RMP) is one of the co-managers of the Bay Islands National Marine Park in Honduras. RMP operates in 75% of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) around the island of Roatan, but possible re-distribution of obligations among co-managers could make RMP responsible for all the MPAs. Available funding is currently insufficient for RMP to implement basic conservation actions in the increasingly threatened ecosystems of these MPAs. Developing and enhancing financial plans and strategies are therefore priority needs for the organization.



The project

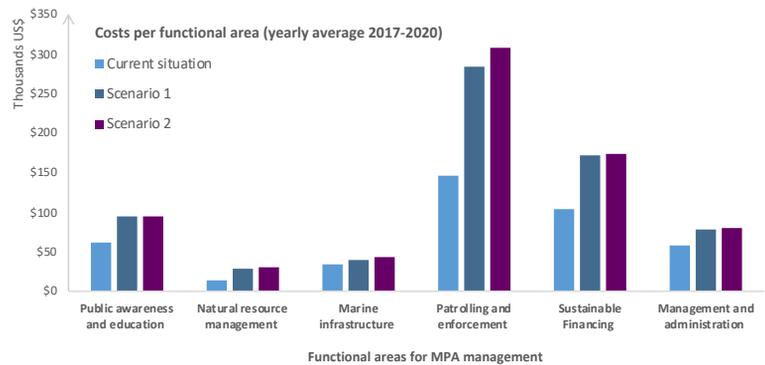
In 2017 and 2018, GCFI and NOAA supported the organization of two **MPAConnect** workshops (photo), in which Wolfs Company assisted RMP and TIDE Belize with improving their financial planning and financing mechanisms in order to effectively manage their MPAs. A **financial planning tool** and the **Eco2Fin framework**, both developed by Wolfs Company, were respectively applied to estimate MPA management costs in alternative management scenarios and design financial solutions to reduce RMP's financing gap.



Current financial situation and overall projections for RMP

At present, RMP's annual operating costs are approximately US\$420,000. However, this does not consider all the financial needs for basic MPA management, which could cost the organization between US\$690,000 and US\$720,000 per year (depending on the scenario considered). Since RMP does not receive financial support from the government, it relies on self-managed mechanisms that currently generate around US\$370,000 in revenue per year. This results in an annual **financing gap** of around **US\$50,000**, in case of business as usual, and between **US\$320,000** and **US\$350,000** in the scenarios for basic MPA management.

<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Insufficient funding for basic management of current area of operation</p>	<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>Basic management of current area of operation</p>	<p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>Basic management of full area</p>
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Enhancing financing mechanisms to bridge the financing gap for nature management

A review of existing and potential financing mechanisms showed that the organization already has a diverse mix of revenue sources, some of which have high potential to generate sufficient financial resources to bridge RMP's financing gap.

Following on the next steps formulated through the project, RMP is currently enhancing their bracelet donations program by targeting the myriad of cruise tourists that benefit from the natural assets of the MPA every week and is using the outcomes of the financial projections to refine their fundraising strategies.

Through these actions, RMP expects to support currently underfinanced activities, such as patrolling and enforcement, in order to ensure compliance with rules and regulations of the park.



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